

Idaho Trade Token Newsletter

Boise, Idaho

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News

The Southern Idaho Coin Club's 41st Annual Coin Show will be May 2 (10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.) and 3 (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) at the Holiday Inn in Boise. Always a few tokens there.

Idaho Archaeology Week is April 25 - May 3. There are some interesting displays and presentations all across the state. Try to locate a copy of the brochure for a schedule. It should be available at many of the typical places [visitor bureaus, museums, etc.]

I have signed up for "real" Internet service and have a new e-mail address tokens@micron.net, but will retain my other addresses. Please change your "address book" I also took Greg Manos' advice and bought a Umax 610P color scanner. I hope to use it in conjunction with my photo scanner for the newsletter. Greg has scanned some tokens and will be able to e-mail images to my new address. For those of you not yet computerized or "on line", you are missing out on some interesting stuff. Sometimes, though, I wonder whether I'd be better off using a metal detector to find tokens. At least in warm weather.

My copy of Charles Kappen's California Token Supplement arrived last month. It is a well-done work in the "new" 8½ by 11 hardbound format like the recent Wisconsin and North Dakota catalogs. It, as the title implies, is a supplement to Kappen's 1976 California Tokens, which has been one of the most-used books in my library. The latest work picks up where the original left off and adds 586 pages at about 25 tokens per page to the catalog of CA tokens. Kappen priced tokens in the first volume; in the second, he elected to state the quantity of a particular token reported to him. Both works use literal descriptions and only have a few plates of photos. The original is still available from TAMS and the supplement from Kappen.

And just this week, my copy of Bob Campbell's Utah Trade Tokens arrived. It, too, will be a much-used reference. The first Utah books by Harry Campbell (no relation), Campbell's Tokens of Utah, were done in alphabetical order by merchant; this new catalog lists them in the standard format of alphabetically by town. Bob uses a "type" scale which serves to describe whether the token has town and state, is a "good for", etc. With that, he uses a rarity scale and adds a price range. Photos of tokens, towns, and businesses are scattered throughout the book, but it mainly relies on literal descriptions. He does not subscribe to the common practice of using "/" to denote new lines on a token. Rather he uses "-" to save space and reserves the slash to denote the difference between obverse and reverse. There are 303 pages in this softcover, spiral-bound 8½ by 11 work, including much interesting background material and indexes. The covers are beautiful color plates of some very neat tokens. I really wish he had gone for a more durable binding, though, even at a premium price.

Both the CA and UT books list contributors to the catalogs. Idaho Trade Token Newsletter recipients Kendall Ballard, Hal Dunn, Jim Hemphill, Jim Mabry, Richard Magnuson, Greg Manos, John Mutch, and Dean Rasmussen are on the lists. I would like to express my appreciation to you folks who help the cause of token cataloging by sharing your information for our common good rather than withholding it and hoping for personal gain. Without input from all collectors, a reference work like a state catalog is not complete.

Opportunity knocking...

Dan Lute and I have come upon an opportunity for the group: two examples of the #IC-1, MINERS BREWERY AND BAKERY / IDAHO / CITY / 1865. // GOOD / FOR 25 CTS token will be available for sale to the highest bidder! These are the famous "First Idaho Token", as described in the March, 1997 issue of this newsletter, and, like all the examples I know, show evidence of being in the fire of 1865 which destroyed Idaho City. This bid will be conducted rather quickly - the end date will be Saturday, May 9, 1998 - and will be limited to recipients of this newsletter. The minimum bid is \$100.00 per token, and the bidding will be open. You can mail [or e-mail] bids, but they must be received by me on or before noon, MDT of the end date. Bidding will continue by way of a telephone conference call starting at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 9. If you wish to participate in that part of the auction, call (208) 364-0190 at 8:00 p.m. to continue the bidding from the highest mail bids. All bidders will be able to make live bids against each other until the tokens sell. Don't miss this chance if you need the piece.

Salmon update

Dean Rasmussen has really been beating the bushes to line up a good time for us at Salmon this July. No excuses for missing if you live within a couple of hundred miles! And, if you live within a thousand miles, the excuse had better be good... The tentative agenda is as follows:

Friday evening, July 17: Dinner at 7:00 p.m. at the Shady Nook steak house, just north of the Stagecoach Inn.

Saturday morning, July 18: meet at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast at Shenon Hotel Coffee Shop on Main Street.

Saturday morning, July 18: meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Salmon Museum on Main Street to start on field trip [see info below]. Bring sack lunch, drinks, snacks, etc.

Saturday evening, July 18: meet at Stagecoach Lemhi Room at 6:00 p.m. We will have pizza and drinks delivered as soon as we have a headcount.

Saturday night, July 18 until midnight: token talk and trading, show and tell, etc., etc.

Sunday morning, July 19: have a safe trip home

This agenda is such that if you don't want to partake of all the activities, you can catch up with us at some point. Remember that you family is welcome also.

Dean is arranging to have someone meet us at the Museum to guide us around Salmon and show us where the different old businesses were located. Then at 10:00 A.M. we will go back for a half hour visit to the museum and then leave about 10:30 from there for Leesburg, Shoup, and Gibbonsville,

Mike Fritz is arranging for some sort of pinback which we can wear during the weekend, an instant collectable in itself. I will have some stickers printed up to make "sticker dollars" with, another collectable. Everyone bring \$50. or so in Susan B. Anthony dollar coins to put the stickers on and then spend in the Salmon area.

Costs: we will need to divide up the cost of the meeting room, pizza, pinbacks, and stickers, plus cover our own motel room and meals. A pretty reasonable price for a fun time!

Hugh Hartman is recovering

Hugh suffered a couple of heart attacks recently and underwent open-heart surgery. He is recovering from six bypasses and is taking it easy. Hugh has dealt in a lot of nice antiques in his career, besides putting together a real nice Idaho token collection and authoring The Founding Fathers of Boise in 1988. He sold his tokens, but maintains an interest in them.

Fremont, Idaho imposter?

Dean Rasmussen has been looking into the Consolidated Stores token, and has advanced the theory that this is not from the town of Fremont after all. We will expect a full report in a few months.



Grand Forks, Idaho



Last month's bit about the Anheuser tokens and the Grand Forks photo stirred up some good interest. Kendall Ballard and Jay Burrup supplied another post-card photo of Grand Forks, probably taken before the one featured last month. The trees in front of the Anheuser Hotel (center) were still in place and the sign had not been put up. The building on the left is the Bitter Root Mercantile Co. and the one on the right is the El Rey Hotel. The building to the right of the Anheuser was the North Pole Bar and Restaurant and had been remodeled between the two photos. Last month's photo shows a

woman, possibly one of the town's many ladies of the night, leaning out of the upstairs window.

Dick Magnuson furnished some interesting background on Grand Forks, taken from [Up the Swiftwater, a Pictorial History of the Colorful Upper St. Joe River Country](#), published by the Museum of North Idaho, and from a brochure published by the Taft Tunnel Preservation Society in Wallace. Grand Forks was located NNE of Avery where Cliff Creek joins Loop Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the St. Joe River. It was at about N47°21', W115°40'; the closest place which appears on today's map is Falcon, across Loop Creek from the site of Grand Forks. The vast resources of northern Idaho required transportation links to move them to eastern and western markets. The Northern Pacific Railroad crossed the state in 1883, followed the next decade by the Great Northern line. The Milwaukee road [the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway] built a third line through northern Idaho which was completed in 1909. This line faced a huge challenge between the St. Joe and St. Regis River drainages, as the Bitterroot Mountains intervened. Engineers planned a 8771-foot tunnel under the divide between Idaho and Montana, and the project employed some 1000 men to hand drill the St. Paul Pass tunnel, later called the Taft tunnel, working from each end toward the middle.

Construction camps on either end of the project sprang up, Taft on the Montana side was named for President Taft who stopped there on a transcontinental tour to scold the inhabitants about their wicked ways, and Grand Forks on the Idaho side. Both were filled with dance halls, prostitutes, and saloons, and both declined quickly with the completion of the tunnel in 1909. Gould's 1978 [Merchant Tokens of Montana](#) lists 5¢ and 20¢ tokens from the Anheuser in Taft. Based on the similarity in design, denomination, and material, these tokens probably represent two branches of a business under the same owner.

Both Grand Forks and Taft were largely destroyed when the forest fire of 1910 raged through Shoshone County on its way into Montana. Over 400 people survived the blaze inside the Taft tunnel. The tunnel has long been closed, but there is an effort underway by the Taft Tunnel Preservation Society to reopen it to foot and bicycle traffic.

Lynn L. Langdon

Lynn passed away on Sunday, April 19, 1998 at his home in Buhl. He was a familiar figure at area stamp and coin shows; he had put together wonderful collections of coins, tokens, paper ephemera, and postal history, the kinds of things we all love. He was in the hide and scrap metal business prior to WWII, and moved into the pipe, steel, and machine shop business in Buhl and Twin Falls afterward. A stroke in 1995 forced his retirement. His wife, Lois, quite a collector herself, son Lauren who collects antique farm engines and machinery, one brother and four sisters, six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren, survive Lynn.



Meet Jay Burrup

"My main collecting interest is old picture postcards of Idaho. I started collecting them seriously about ten years ago from Downey and other Marsh Valley locations: Red Rock Pass, Downata Hot Springs, Calvin, Cambridge, Grant, Marsh Center, Arimo, Virginia, Garden Creek (also known as Robin), Lava Hot Springs, Dempsey, McCammon, and Inkom. My roots in the Marsh Valley and Preston areas of southeastern Idaho go back to the early 1870s. My Great-Great-Grandfather, James Burrup, served as the one and only Postmaster of Nine Mile (now called Cambridge, a couple of miles north of Downey) during its ultra brief existence during 1879. I just recently obtained from the National Archives copies of his application to establish the post office. Another ancestor, my Great Grandfather Jon C. Greaves, served as Postmaster of Preston in the 1890s. He founded the J. C. Greaves & Sons General Merchandise store during the same period and the First National Bank of Preston in 1904. The store and bank were disposed of during the 1930s. I have neither seen nor heard of a token from the general store, but I'd love to know if and when one ever surfaces!



"Over the years I have picked up a few Idaho tokens. I remember seeing an old Downey token kicking around in a drawer at home while I was growing up. My Dad gave it to me before he died a couple of years ago. Recently I have been able to acquire a nice variety of Downey tokens from Greg Manos. One of my favorite Downey tokens is good for a cigar at the Oxford hotel. The Oxford was Downey's

social hot spot in its heyday, but I can only remember it as a derelict eyesore. It was torn down in the early 1970s when I was a teenager. Over the years I have been fortunate to acquire several nice postcards and pieces of stationery that feature the hotel. The token adds a nice finishing touch to the collection."

The 21mm brass Hotel Oxford token pictured is the only variety known from the business. At the moment, I know of four examples of it, but have no data on the history of the business.

Matt's Place of Grangeville

Matthew Byron "Matt" Geary was born September 5, 1871 at Osborn Mills, West Virginia. He came to Grangeville in 1893 and mined in the area. On August 22, 1906 he married Edna May Johnson, born February 14, 1879 near Tolo Lake in Idaho County. In 1908 Geary and his neighbor, George D. Smith, started a saloon in Grangeville; Smith later sold his interest to his son, Ira Ernest "Kid" Smith. In 1910 Matt Geary and Kid Smith opened their Office Saloon in the newly constructed Schmadeka Block at what is now 101 East Main





Street. There is a nice photograph of the interior of this saloon featured in Idaho County Voices, a recently published history of the area. Greg Manos got the 25mm brass token shown above with others from Grangeville. It is the only known example from this business. Why the Office Saloon maverick was counterstamped with only "Kid" Smith's initials is a mystery unless it was as a result of his purchase from his father. When prohibition closed the saloons, Smith sold out and Geary converted the business to Matt's Place pool

and billiard hall in the same location. Oscars, a nice restaurant with old photos and antiques providing décor, now is in the space in the corner of the Schmadeka Block where Matt's was.

Matt Geary remained involved in mining ventures and was a civic leader, serving as City Councilman and as President of the Grangeville Commercial Club. He died on April 28, 1931, leaving his wife and three children.

Mrs. Geary continued ownership of Matt's Place under the management of Boss Brown. In 1935 Edna Geary married Edward S. Vincent, who was born May 6, 1874 at Lewiston. He had managed the Imperial Hotel in Grangeville and the lunch counter and newsstand in the Lewiston train depot after cattle ranching near Slate Creek for many years. Ed Vincent took over management of Matt's Place when Brown retired in 1939. After Edna died on May 2, 1945, Vincent continued managing the business for the Geary children, James H. Geary, Mary Estaline Hinshaw, and Verna McGrane, until he retired in 1947. They sold the business in the early 1950's. Ed Vincent died on November 23, 1962; he was deeply interested in local history and wrote numerous articles for the Grangeville newspapers.



I have catalogued five varieties of the 21mm round brass 5¢ tokens from Matt's Place. All are worded the same; the difference is in the size, spacing,

and ornamentation. They are cataloged as #GR-3, 3(B), 3(C) [shown], 3(F), and 3(G). There are three varieties of the 8-

scalloped aluminum 12½¢ tokens. These have similar obverse layouts, but differ in the size and reverses:



#GR-3(A)[shown], 28mm, reverse: GOOD FOR / ¢12½¢ / IN TRADE

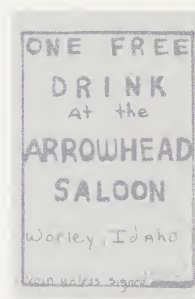
#GR-3[D], 30mm, reverse: GOOD FOR / 12½ / CENTS / IN TRADE.

#GR-3[E], 28mm, reverse: GOOD FOR / 12½¢ / IN TRADE

All of the aluminum tokens show considerable wear, compared to the brass pieces. Most of these varieties are relatively common, the exception being the 3[F] and 3[G] varieties of which I only know of two each. There is also a 39mm plastic poker chip known. It is blue around a white center field with black printing: MATT'S / PLACE on each side. Presumably there were white and red chips used also, but I have not seen them.

And, lastly:

There is a whole realm of collectable out there similar to the metal, fiber, and plastic tokens we are familiar with. There are several forms: business card and scrip, to name a couple. Many businesses use their business card as a combination trade stimulator and advertisement. Some are made as rain checks, some are professionally typeset and others, like the one shown, were hand made, then duplicated. This 57x98 mm one from Worley is "schoolbus yellow" with black ink. I am not going to attempt to catalog them, but I do collect them. One common use is at hotels and motels where they offer a "happy hour" to guests. A card, good for a drink, is given to the guest upon check-in, and can be redeemed at the lounge. Others were used as the second half of "two-fers", where drinks are on special at two for the price of one. Enjoy collecting these, as they are generally short-lived.



Best regards,

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